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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

44989   7590   01/09/2009

HARRITY & HARRITY, LLP
11350 Random Hills Road
SUITE 600
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

EXAMINER
NOFAL, CHRISTOPHER P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2169	

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/813,572	03/31/2004	Hong Zhou	0026-0080	4333

TITLE OF INVENTION: QUERY REWRITING WITH ENTITY DETECTION

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$300	$0	$1810	04/09/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail**   **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

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Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission
I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

_____ (Depositor's name)

_____ (Signature)

_____ (Date)

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nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$300	$0	$1810	04/09/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
NOFAL, CHRISTOPHER P	2169	707-004000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE   (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) :   ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

☐ Issue Fee

☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)

☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

☐ A check is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____   Date _____

Typed or printed name _____   Registration No. _____

PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.   OMB 0651-0033   U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 327 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 327 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101   or (571)-272-4200.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/813,572	ZHOU ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Christopher P. Nofal	2169

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to <u>applicant's Request for Continued Examination filed 9/25/2008</u>.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1 – 3, 6 – 9, 11, 14 – 16, and 22 – 28 (renumbered 1 – 18)</u>.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

      a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

          1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

          2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

          3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
        Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
    Paper No./Mail Date <u>9/29/2008</u>

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
    Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

/Christopher P. Nofal/	/Pierre M. Vital/
Examiner, Art Unit 2169	Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2169

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37

CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for

continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely

paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Applicant's submission filed on 9/25/2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment, filed 9/25/2008, has been received, entered into the record, and

considered.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement, filed on 9/29/2008, has been received and entered

into the record. Since the information disclosure statement complies with the provisions of MPEP §

609, the Examiner has considered the references cited therein. See attached form PTO-1449.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312.

To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of

the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul

A. Harrity (Reg. No. 39,574) on 12/22/2008.

The claims have been amended as follows:

1.   (currently amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method, comprising:

receiving a search query <u>from a device associated with a user</u>;

determining whether the received search query includes an entity name;

determining whether the entity name corresponds to one of a plurality of common words or

phrases;

rewriting the received search query to include a restrict identifier that restricts a search based

on the rewritten search query to a domain associated with the entity name ~~when the entity name is~~

~~determined not to correspond to one of the common words or phrases~~;

performing a search<u>,</u> based on the rewritten search query<u>,</u> to obtain search results when ~~the~~

~~received search query is rewritten~~ <u>the entity name is determined not to correspond to one of the</u>

<u>common words or phrases</u>; [[and]]

presenting the search results <u>to the device</u> when the search is performed based on the

rewritten search query<u>;</u>

<u>performing a search based on the received search query when the entity name is determined</u>

<u>to correspond to one of the common words or phrases;</u>

<u>providing, to the device, a link to the rewritten search query when the search is performed</u>

<u>based on the received search query;</u>

<u>receiving a selection of the link to the rewritten search query; and</u>

<u>performing a search based on the rewritten search query in response to the selection of the</u>

<u>link to the rewritten search query</u>.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a link to the received search query when the search is performed based on the

rewritten search query.

3.   (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving selection of the link to the received search query; and

performing a search based on the received search query in response to the selection of the

link to the received search query.

4.   (canceled)

5.   (canceled)

6.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether a word near the entity name in the received search query forms a

common phrase with the entity name; and

performing a search based on the received search query when it is determined that a word

near the entity name forms a common phrase with the entity name.

7.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the

entity name corresponds to one of the common words or phrases comprises:

comparing the entity name to a dictionary of words or phrases.

8.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the

entity name corresponds to one of the common words or phrases comprises:

using an inverse document frequency weighting technique or a linguistic modeling technique

to identify whether the entity name corresponds to one of the common words or phrases.

9.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the

entity name corresponds to one of the common words or phrases comprises:

generating a table of entity names that correspond to the common words or phrases, and

determining whether the entity name corresponds to one of the common words or phrases

based on the table.

10.   (canceled)

11.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the

received search query includes an entity name comprises:

identifying a plurality of variations of a plurality of entity names, and

determining whether the received search query includes one of the variations of the entity

names.

12.   (canceled)

13.   (canceled)

14.   (currently amended) A ~~system~~ <u>device</u>, comprising:

means for receiving a search query;

means for determining whether the received search query includes an entity name;

means for determining whether the entity name corresponds to one of a plurality of common words or phrases;

means for rewriting the received search query to include a restrict identifier that identifies a particular domain associated with the entity name ~~when it is determined that the entity name does not correspond to one of the common words or phrases~~;

means for performing a search within the particular domain<u>, based on the rewritten search query</u>, to obtain search results when ~~the received search query is rewritten~~ <u>it is determined that the entity name does not correspond to one of the common words or phrases</u>; [[and]]

means for providing the search results when the search within the particular domain is performed<u>;</u>

<u>means for performing a search based on the received search query when the entity name is determined to correspond to one of the common words or phrases;</u>

<u>means for providing a link to the rewritten search query when the search is performed based on the received search query;</u>

<u>means for receiving a selection of the link to the rewritten search query; and</u>

<u>means for performing a search based on the rewritten search query in response to the selection of the link to the rewritten search query.</u>

15.   (currently amended) The ~~system~~ <u>device</u> of claim 14, further comprising:

means for providing a link to the received search query <u>when the search within the particular</u>

<u>domain is performed</u>.

16.   (currently amended) The ~~system~~ <u>device</u> of claim 15, further comprising:

means for receiving selection of the link to the received search query; and

means for performing a search based on the received search query in response to the

selection of the link to the received search query.

17-21. (canceled)

22.   (currently amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method, comprising:

receiving a search query <u>from a device associated with a user</u>;

determining whether the received search query includes an entity name;

determining whether the entity name corresponds to one of a plurality of common words or

phrases;

when the entity name corresponds to one of the common words or phrases,

generating a link to a rewritten query,

performing a search based on the received search query to obtain first search results,

providing<u>, to the device,</u> the first search results and the link to the rewritten query;

<u>receiving a selection of the link to the rewritten search query, and</u>

<u>perform a search based on the rewritten search query in response to the selection of the link</u>

<u>to the rewritten search query</u>;

and when the entity name does not correspond to one of the common words or phrases,

rewriting the received search query to include a restrict identifier that identifies a

particular domain associated with the entity name,

generating a link to the received search query,

performing a search for documents within the particular domain based on the

rewritten search query to obtain second search results,

providing, to the device, the second search results and the link to the received search

query,

receiving a selection of the link to the rewritten search query, and

performing a search based on the rewritten search query in response to the selection

of the link to the rewritten search query.

23.   (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a memory to store instructions; and

a processor to execute the instructions in the memory to:

receive a search query,

determine that the received search query includes an entity name,

determine [[that]] whether the entity name does not correspond corresponds to one

of a plurality of common words or phrases,

rewrite the received search query to include a restrict identifier that restricts a search,

based on the rewritten search query, to a domain associated with the entity name when the

entity name is determined not to correspond to one of the common words or phrases,

when the entity name is determined to correspond to one of the common words or

phrases:

> perform a search based on the received search query,
>
> provide a link to the rewritten search query,
>
> receive a selection of the link to the rewritten search query, and
>
> perform a search based on the rewritten search query in response to the selection of
> the link to the rewritten search query, and
>
> when the entity name is determined not to correspond to one of the common words
> or phrases:
>
> > perform a search based on the rewritten search query to obtain search results
> > when the received search query is rewritten, and
> >
> > present the search results when the search is performed based on the
> > rewritten search query.

24.   (previously presented) The system of claim 23, where the processor is further configured to:

determine whether a word near the entity name in the received search query forms a common phrase with the entity name, and

perform a search based on the received search query when it is determined that a word near the entity name forms a common phrase with the entity name.

25.   (previously presented) The system of claim 23, where when determining that the received search query includes an entity name, the processor is configured to:

identify a plurality of variations of a plurality of entity names, and

determine that the received search query includes one of the variations of the entity names.

26. (currently amended) A computer-readable memory device that stores computer-executable

instructions, the computer-readable memory device comprising:

one or more instructions to receive a search query;

one or more instructions to determine that the received search query includes an entity

name;

one or more instructions to determine whether the entity name corresponds to one of a

plurality of common words or phrases;

one or more instructions to rewrite the received search query to include a restrict identifier

that restricts a search based on the rewritten search query to a domain associated with the entity

name ~~when the entity name is determined not to correspond to one of the common words or~~

~~phrases~~;

one or more instructions to perform a search, based on the rewritten search query, to obtain

search results when ~~the received search query is rewritten~~ <u>the entity name is determined not to</u>

<u>correspond to one of the common words or phrases</u>; [[and]]

one or more instructions to present the search results when the search is performed based on

the rewritten search query<u>;</u>

<u>one or more instructions to perform a search based on the received search query when the</u>

<u>entity name is determined to correspond to one of the common words or phrases;</u>

<u>one or more instructions to provide a link to the rewritten search query when the search is</u>

<u>performed based on the received search query;</u>

<u>one or more instructions to receive a selection of the link to the rewritten search query; and</u>

one or more instructions to perform a search based on the rewritten search query in response to

the selection of the link to the rewritten search query.

27.   (previously presented) The computer-readable memory device of claim 26, further

comprising:

one or more instructions to provide a link to the received search query when the search is

performed based on the rewritten search query.

28.   (previously presented) The computer-readable memory device of claim 27, further

comprising:

one or more instructions to receive selection of the link to the received search query; and

one or more instructions to perform a search based on the received search query in response

to the selection of the link to the received search query.

29.   (canceled)

30.   (canceled)

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1 – 3, 6 – 9, 11, 14 – 16, and 22 – 28 (now renumbered 1 – 18) are allowed over the

cited prior art.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art, either alone

or in combination, fails to teach in combination with the other claim limitations the combined

features of: 'rewriting the received search query to include a restrict identifier that restricts a search

based on the rewritten search query to a domain associated with the entity name; performing a

search based on the rewritten search query to obtain search results when the entity name is

determined not to correspond to one of the common words or phrases; presenting the search results

to the device when the search is performed based on the rewritten search query; performing a

search based on the received search query when the entity name is determined to correspond to one

of the common words or phrases; providing, to the device, a link to the rewritten search query

when the search is performed based on the received search query; receiving a selection of the link to

the rewritten search query; and performing a search based on the rewritten search query in response

to the selection of the link to the rewritten search query," as recited in the independent claims.

The two closest references, **Bowman (US 6,006,225)** and **Google Hacks (February 2003)**,

teach various aspects of the claimed invention:

Bowman discloses, *inter alia*, receiving a search query, determining whether the search query

includes an entity name, determining whether the entity name corresponds to common words or

phrases, and rewriting the received search query to obtain a rewritten search query.

Google Hacks discloses, *inter alia*, incorporating restrict identifiers into rewritten queries.

However, neither **Bowman** nor **Google Hacks** explicitly discloses the features recited in

the independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher P. Nofal whose telephone number is (571)270-3161. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pierre M. Vital can be reached on (571) 272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

22-Dec-08

/Christopher P. Nofal/
Examiner, Art Unit 2169

/Pierre M. Vital/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2169